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Wednesday Morning, August 2, 1916.

HUGHES' SPEECH

For a pronouncement which had been widely heralded as calculated to take a high place in political annals, the speech of Charles E. Hughes will be received with general disappointment throughout the country. It was expected that the Republican candidate would lash verbally the present administration. It was known that he would have to exercise considerable ingenuity in assailing men and policies which have been proven successful. Confronted, as he was, by facts which could not be gainsaid, he was expected to strike out boldly with declarations of principles which could be set over against those of the opposition and thereafter stand on their own merits.

It is therefore with unconcealed surprise and with universal disapproval that the country will receive the acceptance speech. Republicans cannot be otherwise than chagrined. Mr. Hughes revealed himself as wholly disingenuous. His pronouncement will rate him as little more than a common scold. He relied almost entirely upon denunciation in an effort to make himself convincing, and denunciation is not convincing. It may provoke a rattle of cheers at first but sober reason unmasks it later.

Every principle which Mr. Hughes propounds has been put into practice already by President Wilson. Mr. Hughes offers absolutely nothing new. He declares for a "new" policy of "firmness and consistency" toward Mexico. "The seizure of Vera Cruz was war, of course," he says. "Later we retired from Vera Cruz, giving up this noble warfare. Recently the naked truth was admitted by a cabinet officer. We are now informed that we did not go to Vera Cruz to force Huerta to salute the flag. We are told that we went there to 'show Mexico that we were in earnest in our demand that Huerta must go.'"

It seems incredible that Mr. Hughes would attempt to discuss the Vera Cruz incident in the light of facts. President Wilson authorized the seizure of Vera Cruz, governed it with all the rigors of warlike occupation, accomplished everything that could have been done had war actually been declared but avoided a useless declaration of war because nothing could have been gained thereby that was not already secured. What, in the name of consistency, Mr. Hughes, became of Huerta? President Wilson forced him into exile and thus, as Mr. Hughes suggests at this late day, "showed Mexico that we were in earnest in our demand that Huerta must go." Continuing, Mr. Hughes proclaims with pious fervor: "We demand from Mexico the protection of the lives and property of our citizens and the security of our border from depredations."

Not only has such a demand been made by President Wilson, but he has backed it up with the mobilization of an armed force greater than was ever assembled in this country since the Civil War. Even the most rabid jingo knows that the Mexican problem is fraught with extraordinary complications. The physical conquest of Mexico by the United States could be accomplished by any president who might be in the White House when Congress decided to take such drastic action. But war with Mexico would entail, later, other huge responsibilities which we, as a nation, do not feel at this time obligated to assume. The effort of President Wilson to accomplish the pacification of Mexico without actual war is universally applauded. Thus far, commendable progress has been made. If Mr. Hughes had been president, and had proclaimed war without any more justification than has confronted Mr. Wilson, the former would now be writhing under universal condemnation.

Suppose another man had been president of the United States, when Germany's policy of frightfulness endangered the peace between the two governments. Suppose he had been a man of martial spirit, instead of one possessed of that keen understanding and sympathy for American ideals with which Woodrow Wilson is imbued. What would have been his main objective as he formulated his policy for dealing with Germany. Suppose even that he had gone to war, would he not have done this with the main purpose of procuring an abatement of the outrages which Germany had committed, and thus insuring for the future that respect for American rights which would enable our citizens to travel wherever they wished upon the high seas safely and without fear of their rights being violated. A war or some other policy might

or might not have succeeded in bringing this about. The policy which the president has followed did succeed. His vigorous exertion of the moral power of America upon the intellects and hearts of the German rulers and the German people, and his clearly indicated purpose to break with Germany if she did not respect our rights, compelled the most militant of nations to bow to America's will. This was the supreme diplomatic achievement of modern times. Undoubtedly the future historian, in writing of the European war, will comment upon the president's achievement as remarkable and epoch-making.

The test of a policy is its effectiveness. The effect of the president's policy has been to preserve the peace of the nation, to withhold from American mothers and American young men the sacrifices which war would have forced upon them, to leave America free to press on to her highest destiny of national prosperity and national ideals, to safeguard the rights of the citizens of his nation in whatever quarter they were assailed, to keep the beacon light of human hopes and aspirations toward free government shining at a period when darkness had engulfed all Europe and was reaching out its hand to the home of free governments here in the Western hemisphere.

FAMILY VACATION PROBLEMS

A citizen present the other evening at a spirited front porch debate on the subject of vacations, reports that most of the debaters seemed to prefer separate vacations for husband and wife.

The women nearly all took this view. Not that they cared particularly about getting rid of their husbands. Their preference was unselfish. They expatiated on the desirability of a husband being able to get away from his wife at least once a year—in fact, to get away from all women, and return to the primitive comfort and unconventionality that is the inalienable right of males. Any man who wants to "rough it" for a couple of weeks, they agreed, ought to be allowed to do it, alone or with congenial male companions.

There is usually trouble, anyhow, suggested one very frank woman, when husband and wife go vacationing together. For, however well they may "hitch" in their home routine, when they start away for a good time in a new environment there is inevitable pulling and hauling. One wants to go by train, the other by boat. One wants to go fishing, the other to attend a lawn party. One wants to tramp in the country, the other wants to go to a show, and it usually ends in a compromise that satisfies neither. Why shouldn't the husband go and take his ideal vacation, and the wife hers? The rest from each other, too, would do them good. They'd appreciate each other all the more afterwards for the separation and the specialized good times they'd had.

But a man who confessed to several years of wedded life took up the problem from a new angle. "The trouble with many couples," he said, "is that they take their pleasure too seriously. To them the means, the method of taking recreation, is more than the end sought. Philosophers tell us that happiness is contained within our selves, and that the precise manner of bringing it to realization is non-essential. In other words, pleasure is an attitude of mind, whether during vacation or at desk or kitchen range.

"Once the intention to have a good time is fixed in the mind, what matters it whether it's the seashore or mountains, the butternut shirt or chiffon frock?"

He and his wife, he says, take their vacations together. They simply hold a little council over the dinner table, decide where they'll go, and then, at noon on "the" Saturday, start forth. No matter about the details. Their vacation begins, for them, at one minute past noon on that particular Saturday, and it lasts until the moment of their return.

They don't care much what they do, or where they go. The great thing is the sense of freedom, the lack of restraint, the absence of necessity for doing any particular thing. So they just loaf through the vacation time, changing their plans as often as they feel like it, adapting themselves to circumstances, refusing to take anything seriously—and get along together beautifully, and come back rested.

And aren't they right about it?

Brussels has been fined \$2,000,000 by the German governor general, because some of the natives wore green ribbons and indulged in a mild celebration on their great national holiday. And the governor explains: "It is only a consideration of the loyal co-operation of the municipal (Belgian) authorities that the fine imposed is so moderate." Thus the conquerors teach the Belgians to love them.

DOES POETRY PAY?

James Whitcomb Riley made a comfortable living from the distant time when he stopped sign-painting until he close of a fairly long life. He was generous to his friends and his community. One of his benefactions was a gift of property worth \$75,000 to the city of Indianapolis. He left an estate valued at \$200,000.

He did all this with his poetry. And yet the tradition prevails that "poetry doesn't pay." It certainly paid Riley.

The fact is, that it depends on the poet. There is a good market in America for poetry, and it is getting better all the time. There are fortunes awaiting poets who have the divine gift, and who can speak to the heart of the nation.

And Riley's experience proves that honor, as well as money, will be lavished on the true poet. The American public is as quick to praise as it is to purchase. Indeed, there is probably a better field for poetry in America today than anywhere in the world—the chance of wider influence, fuller appreciation and greater reward.

SURE OF PLACE ON FARM CREDITS BOARD



W. W. Flannagan.

W. W. Flannagan, of New Jersey, who has for several months acted as secretary of the congressional joint committee on rural credits, is the only person who is regarded as certain to be appointed by the president as a member of the board who will administer the rural credits law recently enacted. Mr. Flannagan is an enthusiast on the rural credits subject, and many of his ideas are incorporated in the measure.

STANWOLD PITCHER BOUGHT BY TIGERS

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1.—Johnny Couch, former varsity pitcher at Stanford University and now with the San Francisco team of the Pacific Coast baseball league, was sold today to the Detroit American League club. He will join the Tigers next spring.

A GOOD PLACE FOR UNCLE'S WATCH DOG



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